

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 809 - HB 1034

February 20, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) for Tennessee Act of 2005. Changes, from voluntary to mandatory, for a local education agency (LEA) to provide a pre-K program that provides the number of classrooms necessary to serve all eligible children. Establishes that an “eligible child” is a child who is four years of age on or before August 15 and who resides in the geographic area served by the LEA. Requires each LEA to establish an initial enrollment deadline for children to enroll in the pre-K program. Establishes certain requirements for a pre-K program and further establishes that enrollment in a pre-K program is voluntary.

Subject to appropriations, requires the state to fund 100 percent of the costs required for an LEA to provide the necessary number of classrooms and teachers and for the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE) to allocate to each LEA an amount sufficient for the LEA to serve all eligible children in the LEA's pre-K program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$479,308,200/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-104 prioritizes the enrollment of at-risk children into a voluntary pre-K program and provides access to eligible three and four-year old students.
- The proposed legislation removes eligibility for three-year old students and eliminates preference for “at risk” students; the revised language increases the number of possible 4-year-olds served within an LEA pre-K from 20,000 to 82,555.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-104(d)(1) sets the maximum classroom size for pre-K students at 20; therefore, in order to serve the total population of eligible four-year old students, the state will need a total of 4,128 (82,555 / 20) classrooms.
- The Department of Education (DOE) will require additional capacity in the Early Learning Division to oversee the significant increase in pre-K classrooms.
- DOE will require one pre-K director at the Education Consultant 4 level; there will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$107,265 (\$85,704 salary + \$21,561 benefits) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.

- DOE will need to increase staffing, from three regional directors to a director in each of the eight CORE regions, to supervise the field staff and program monitors across the state and to provide continued job-embedded professional development.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures for five additional position of \$471,610 (\$373,020 salaries + \$98,590 benefits) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- DOE will require 28 additional field staff at the Child Care Program Evaluator 2 position to conduct quality monitoring and coaching and to ensure all state and federal laws and State Board of Education rules are followed.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures for 28 positions of \$1,749,720 (\$1,324,512 salaries + \$425,221 benefits) in FY23-34 and subsequent years.
- The proposed legislation will require one teacher and one assistant teacher per classroom; this results in 4,128 additional teachers and 4,128 additional assistant teachers.
- The average Tennessee teacher salary is estimated to be \$58,260; the average Tennessee assistant teacher (with a Certified Development Associate credential) salary is approximately \$33,390.
- For additional teachers, there will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$330,739,488 (\$240,497,280 salaries + \$90,240,736 benefits) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- For additional assistant teachers, there will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$190,989,103 (\$137,833,920 salaries + \$53,155,183 benefits) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- It is estimated that classroom costs and supplies will total \$10,000 per classroom. There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$41,280,000 (4,128 classrooms x \$10,000) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- The total cost for personnel and materials is \$565,337,186 (\$107,265 + \$471,610 + \$1,749,720 + \$330,739,488 + \$190,989,103 + \$41,280,000).
- The current funding allocation for the Voluntary pre-K program is \$86,029,000.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is \$479,308,186 (\$565,337,186 - \$86,029,000) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Because the pre-K program is subject to available funding, any increase in local expenditures is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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